Government of Yukon

Yukon Government NEWS Release

FOR RELEASE #08-240
October 3, 2008

Many Rivers Funding Stabilized Over Next Three Years

WHITEHORSE - A $1,381,000 increase in funding to Many Rivers Counselling and Support Services over the next three years was announced by Health and Social Services Minister Glenn Hart today.

"We are being forward-thinking in addressing the financial needs of this organization several years in advance," Hart said. "Many Rivers provides unique outreach services to some hard-to-reach populations in Whitehorse, and also provides itinerant services to 10 Yukon communities. We recognize the increasing demands on their services and want to make sure they are adequately funded to respond."

The increases will bring the government's total commitment to the non-government organization to $5 million over the next three years.

The minister added that entering into a three-year contract, beginning this year, with a starting budget that reflects the current cost of doing business and annual increases to keep pace with increasing costs, will provide government with predictable costs and Many Rivers with predictable income. This, in turn, will contribute to better financial management, planning and accountability.

Marilyn Wolovick is the executive director of Many Rivers Counselling and Support Services. She welcomed today's announcement.

"We are pleased that the government has recognized the value of our services in such a concrete way. The three-year contract will give us much needed stability and security. Minister Glenn Hart dropped by to personally deliver the news which was gratefully received. This funding is an acknowledgement of the strength of our relationship with Yukon government," Wolovick said.

Hart said the increase will also assist Many Rivers with recruitment and retention.

"Retaining qualified, committed staff means that Many Rivers will be able to provide a consistent, dependable service to Yukoners who use the services they provide. This is good news any way you look at it."

-30-

Contact:

Matthew Grant
Cabinet Communications
867-633-7961
matthew.grant@gov.yk.ca

Pat Living
Communications, Health and Social Services
867-667-3673
patricia.living@gov.yk.ca